

Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation

LSAMP DAY

Pandemic to Endemic

Thursday, April 21, 2022 | 1–2:30 p.m.

bhcc.edu/lisamp



Hosted by
Suman Mukherjee

Webex

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Guest Speaker

Ebenezer Tumban, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, Texas Tech University

Dr. Tumban is a molecular virologist and vaccinologist by training. Before joining Texas Technological University, Dr. Tumban was an Associate Professor and the Graduate Program Director of the Department of Biological Sciences at Michigan Technological University (MTU), where he was one of the lead investigators who set up a COVID-19 testing laboratory on campus during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. He also prepared and supplied viral transport medium to hospitals/clinics for COVID-19 testing in the Upper Peninsula in Michigan.

Dr. Tumban's research projects range from assessing the molecular determinants of arboviruses (such as dengue and Langkat viruses) modes of transmission, the generation of recombinant antigens for developing immunodiagnostic kits against infectious agents (e.g. dengue viruses), to the development of candidate vaccines against viral infectious agents. Dr. Tumban is also a co-inventor on a U.S./European Union patent for a virus-like particle (VLP)-based L2 candidate vaccine against human papillomaviruses, which is licensed to Agilvax Biotech. He is currently interested in developing and testing candidate VLP-based subunit vaccines against viral infectious agents.

Dr. Tumban is an ad hoc reviewer for many scientific journals (including the Journal of Vaccine and the Journal of Antiviral Research) and he has served on grant review panels for the Department of Defense (U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Grants).

He enjoys educating students on infectious agents (viruses, bacteria, fungi), the biology of cancer, and the body's response to infectious agents.

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Explore a career in science, engineering, and mathematics. Offered in partnership with UMass Boston, the LSAMP grant at BHCC supports opportunities for internships and career development for minority students majoring in STEM.

Agenda

1–1:05 p.m.

Welcome

Suman Mukherjee, Ph.D., LSAMP Coordinator

Laura Rubin, Ph.D., Dean, Division of Science, Engineering and Mathematics

1:05–1:15 p.m.

Introduction: Origin and Cause of a Pandemic

Suman Mukherjee, Ph.D., LSAMP Coordinator

1:15–1:25 p.m.

Opportunity in Biology and Chemistry

Robert L. Steeper, Professor and Chairperson, Biology and Chemistry Department

1:25–1:30 p.m.

REFLECTS Scholarship Program

JoDe M. Lavine, Ph.D., Assistant Dean, Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Division

1:30–1:40 p.m.

STEM Internship Opportunities

Katharine V. Colello, Learn and Earn Coordinator

1:40–1:45 p.m.

Massachusetts General Postdoc Association (MGPA) Mentor Program

Rose Guzman, Ph.D., Neuroscientist/ National Science Research Associate (NSRA) Postdoctoral Fellow, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School

1:45–2:15 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Ebenezer Tumban, Ph.D. Pandemic to Endemic

Associate Professor of Molecular Virology and Vaccinology, School of Veterinary Medicine, Texas Technological University

2:15–2:30 p.m.

Q&A and Open Discussion with Dr. Tumban